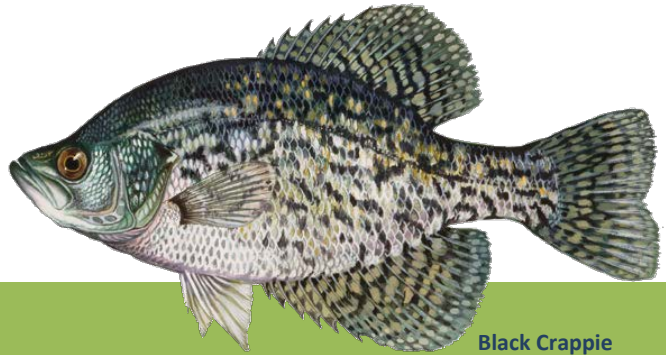


**CT DEEP** **2015**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 15**  
**7/23/2015**



**Black Crappie**  
(*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



**YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK.** This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is reported as fair to very good. The weeds are up and filling in. Try surface lures & poppers early mornings and late evenings for some explosive action. Night fishing is in full swing and producing many fish. Places to try include Lake Wononskopomuc, Messerschmidt Pond (some nice action with shiners & worms for smaller bass), Uncas Lake, East Twin Lake, Congamond Lakes, Beseck Lake, Holbrook Pond, Middle Bolton Lake, Lake Williams, Lake Chamberlain, Farmill Reservoir, Crescent Lake, Bantam Lake, Tyler Lake (recent catches include a 4.19 lb fish), Hanover Pond, Amos Lake, Mudge Pond, Gardner Lake, Mono Pond, Hatch Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, Highland Lake, Park Pond, Pickerel Lake, Rogers Lake, Squantz Pond, West Hill Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Candlewood Lake, Pataconk Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Halls Pond, Griggs Pond, Bigelow Pond, Lake McDonough, Cedar Lake, Mamasasco Lake, Lake Housatonic, Pachaug Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin), Lake Quonnipaug, Bishop Pond and Lake Hayward.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (tough to fair action for clubs, mostly fish in the 1-2 lb range, 2.22 lb and 2.18 lb lunkers for one club, a 5.56 lbunker for another club), Lake of Isles (Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (had to work for your catches, 2.7 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (good action and size, with a 2.33 lb per fish average and a 5.96 lb lunker), Powers Lake (fair fishing, 6.03 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (fair to good, 5.6 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (good evening tournament with fish averaging 2.4 lbs apiece and a 4.88 lb lunker), Shetucket River (tough, with a 3.38 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (mediocre action, 3.69 lb lunker) and Bantam Lake (fair action at best, but with 5.88 lb and 5.56 lb lunkers).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported at Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, the Naugatuck River, Willimantic River, and the upper Housatonic River. Tournament angler reports are from Bantam Lake (some in the bags, with a really nice 5.3 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (hard finding them) and Gardner Lake (very few in bags).

### REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

**FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



**NORTHERN PIKE** action reported from Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake, also some catches reported from Beseck Lake (early in the day).

**KOKANEE SALMON** reports came in from East Twin Lake this week. Early morning trolling is producing with green & black beads. One local angler is having good luck on red and white beads.

**WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall and Squantz Pond.

Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in Candlewood Lake and Park Pond.

**CARP** are being caught in the Bulls Bridge area of the Housatonic River, as well as the Hockanum River and the Quinnipiac River.

**PANFISH** action continues to be very good. Fishing the shallows with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners is making many young anglers happy (and interested). Many of your local small ponds can provide great action. Larger waters to try include Mono Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Morey Pond, Mudge Pond, Norwich Pond, Pachaug Pond, Page Park Lagoon (very good), Peck Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Zemko Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Park Pond and Stanley Quarter Pond.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Early morning anglers are boating some good fish. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (20-24 feet, before 9:30 am on blue/silver, Kobra #114 & #9, deep water near the brown house), East Twin Lake (orange/copper Flash Kings on riggers at 30-40 feet), Quonnipaug Lake (trolling slowly, if deep use thin wire), Highland Lake (7 colors, center basin, early), Lake McDonough, Colebrook Reservoir (26 feet, blue/silver or orange/copper) and Beach Pond (early; wooly bugger at 20 feet).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - Conditions for the weekend should be fairly good for mid-summer trout fishing. Temperatures have moderated some (with cool nights) and with some exceptions flows are generally at or near typical mid-summer levels in most areas (see stream flow graphic on page 4). This is summer so remember to handle your catch carefully to avoid undue stress on the fish.

Good reports for early last week from the West Branch Farmington River (very good) and Upper Housatonic River (early/late). Anglers are also finding some nice fish in pools on the Hammonasset River (upper TMA towards Route 80) and also on the Salmon River (go upstream of the covered bridge).

**Farmington River** - Trout fishing continues to be very good and conditions for the weekend should be good. West Branch flows are clear and moderate (currently 304 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 34 cfs), and water temperatures are ranging from the upper 40's to mid 60's°F. Long leaders should be used (9 feet) for this level of clarity and a 5X tippet will be a good match for these conditions.

#### ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit [www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



Hatches/patterns include Light Dark Hendrickson (*Ephemerella needhami*, #22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #14-16, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #26-28, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners; hatch is coming to an end), Rusty Spinner (#12-24), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #18-22, evening), Light Cahills (#12-14), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-24, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

**Housatonic River** – Fishing has been good and the river should be in great shape for anglers this weekend. Flows are clear, moderate (somewhat higher than typical late July levels) and quite fishable, currently 553 cfs at Falls Village and 768 cfs at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are also fairly comfortable for summer trout, low-mid 60's mornings up to the mid 70's °F later in the day. Long leaders should be used (9 ft) for this level of clarity and a 7X tippet will be a good match for these conditions.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and assorted caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Terrestrial season is here, try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#18-22, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). The Dobson Fly (#2-6) is active and anglers can use a black woolly bugger to mimic it.

#### COMING IN AUGUST, ANOTHER FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY

The second 2015 Free Fishing License Day is **August 15, 2015** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

**The free 1-day license for fishing on August 15, 2015 will be available starting on July 25, 2015.** They can be obtained through our convenient online at [www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing) (now mobile friendly!) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

**Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers. Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam, located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 15.**

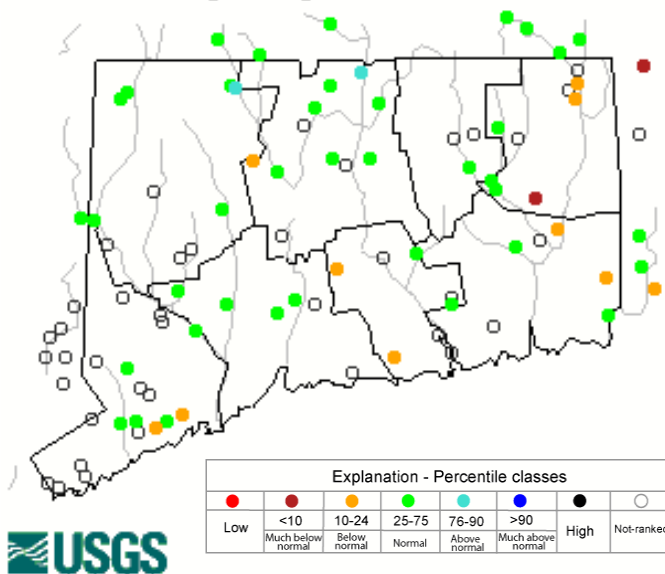
#### CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows continue to be higher than is typical for late-July but still very comfortable for fishing and boating (and will help get you into those difficult to access coves). Turbidity has gone up. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been challenging of late. Try the Middletown (Mattabasset River) to Haddam (near the Meadows) area. Good numbers of **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught north of Hartford, Kings Island, and Windsor Locks canal, and also in the Salmon River area. **CATFISH** are being taken on fresh/frozen cut bait in the Middletown area on the outside (drop offs) of bends. Targeting shallow areas near deep drop-offs at night seems to work the best. **CARP** action was excellent for anglers using Euro-style which brought several fish to the mat. Boilies and method with pop-ups, helicopter rigs and hair rigs did the trick. Action can be found in the Haddam Meadows and downstream at pre-baited (oat meal & corn) sites. Hamburg Cove has been producing well.

**NOTES & NOTICES:**

**BASHAN LAKE (drawdown)** Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun - currently down approximately 10 feet) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

**BATTERSON PARK POND.** A waterski tournament is being conducted this weekend, Saturday (July 25) and Sunday (July 26) from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm each day. Although there will be some use of the state launch by event participants and organizers the state boat launch remains open and room will be available to the general public to park and launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake, especially near the primary waterski event area (northwest portion of lake near the Batterson Park dock and swim area).

**Stream flow conditions as of 7/23/2015****Thursday, July 23, 2015 19:30ET**

Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be "below normal".

**LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS**

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

[www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general\\_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf)

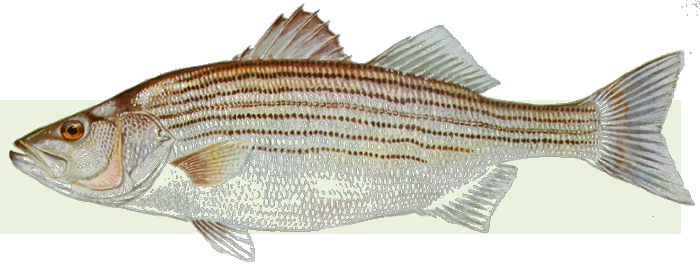
Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue in the 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to be good throughout the Sound (54 inch bass caught in the West Haven area). Fishing is also good in the lower tidal rivers especially at dawn. Try fishing from sundown to sunrise for trophy-sized "cow" stripers. Casting swimming lures, surface poppers, and bouncing jigs off the bottom in the shallows at low light has been productive. Also, live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden), hickory shad or scup on the reefs has been effective on "cow" bass. Bunker (Atlantic menhaden) schools are in the major tidal rivers and harbors with stripers following close behind. Look for hovering or diving ospreys which is an indication of bunker (menhaden) schools. The usual striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch and release when possible.***

**BLUEFISH** fishing has improved on the major reefs and rip areas. Vertical jigging diamond jigs in deep water locations and using fresh bunker chunk baits on three way rigs in shallow water has been the ticket. Typical bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River (CT DEEP Headquarters Fishing Pier), Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER** fishing is improving in the tidal creeks and rivers. The DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Fort Trumbull fishing pier are two great spots to bring kids fishing & crabbing. Look for the schools of "peanut" bunker and you will find the snappers.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing is good with fish measuring in the mid to high 20 inch range being reported. Summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands.

**Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person. Note:** New York has the same summer flounder regulations as Connecticut. However, Rhode Island is already open with an 18 inch minimum length and an 8 fish daily creel limit. **Since Rhode Island has a higher daily creel limit than Connecticut and New York please make sure you abide by the state with the most restrictive regulation when crossing (by boat) state boundaries.**

**SCUP** (porgy) fishing is very good. “Reef Slammers” measuring 14-18 inches (“hubcap size”) in length being reported at every fishing pier, reef or rock pile in the Sound (They are everywhere...go out enjoy the fast paced action). Try Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts and Hatchetts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, **Harkness State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Kimberley Reef (Guilford)**, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these excellent eating and fun catching “Reef Slammers”. These “Panfish of the Sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is fantastic...found throughout the Sound. The hot spot continues to be Falkner Island/Guilford/Branford Beacon/Stratford Shoal. Fishing over deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks on baited jigs or gulp. It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure and fish around slack tide (stay close to the bottom) to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT Black Sea Bass regulations are as follows...14 inch min. length, 3 fish daily limit from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31 and a five fish daily limit from September 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a spro jig and also squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** fishing is good...give it a try. There are plenty of these “Reef Bullies” around the local reefs and pilings. The daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches. Tautog love eating crabs and mussels...try green, Asian and hermit crabs for bait. Look for “Togs” over shellfish beds, pilings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles (10 to 45 ft). **Anglers please note: CTDEEP and Marine Fishing Clubs have been tagging blackfish with yellow American Littoral Society Tags to determine their movements and growth rates.** This critical biological information will help us understand and manage this important resident species to Long Island Sound. Please record Tag Number, Location (Lat/Long), Length and weight of Blackfish and Date of Capture. [www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org) 18 Hartshorne Dr., Ste.1, Highlands New Jersey 07732. Thank you very much for your cooperation and participating in Marine Fisheries Management.

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing continues to be good. “Poor-Man’s Lobster” are very common especially when bottom fishing. With fish measuring over 24 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make). All hard and sandy bottom locations have been producing for anglers. They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are very good to eat.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is good in the Black Hall River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Clinton Harbor and the lower Housatonic River. Incoming tide is the key...as this species migrates a lot. These “CT Tarpon” provide outstanding shore fishing for anglers. **Tie on a silver willowleaf lure (add a 20 inch leader) with a slip sinker above the swivel along with light tackle (6lb test main line).**

**WHITE PERCH** fishing is typically better with the incoming tide. These perch are found in estuaries, tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower **Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier)**, Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh or eel grass is growing. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

**BLUE CRAB** fishing is finally improving in the tidal creeks. Time to get out and try your favorite spot and enjoy the scenery and catch some crabs for dinner (crab cakes). **Remember...all egg bearing females must**

**be released with unavoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for updated information, legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle dip net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.**

**SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT:** Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

**GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT** [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov)

#### NOTABLE CATCHES

- BLUEFISH: 12 LBS, 12 OZS, 34", WEST HAVEN – ALYSSA ZUPPE
  - BLUEFISH: 34", C&R, CONNECTICUT RIVER – STEPHANIE SPADACCINI
  - BLUEFISH: 35" C&R, CORNFIELD POINT – FRED SPADACCINI
  - BLACK SEA BASS: 5 LBS, 15 OZS, 24", NEW HAVEN HARBOR – ALBERT ZUPPE
  - BLACK SEA BASS: 5 LBS, 1 OZ, 24", FALKNER ISLAND – BRYAN BOTTONE
  - SUMMER FLOUNDER: 6 LBS, 6 OZS, 25", NEW HAVEN – JENNIFER ZUPPE
  - SUMMER FLOUNDER: 6 LBS, 2 OZS, 25", NEW LONDON – DAVID MACHA
  - STRIPED BASS: 54 LBS, 15 OZS, 52", WEST HAVEN – ALBERT ZUPPE
- 

#### SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

- To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.
- In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.
- Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tides.

#### BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- See [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – *Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.*

**For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2015 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

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#### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Black Crappie & Striped Bass images  
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.